

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the conduit for national and European funding coming into Cumbria. The benefits to Copeland residents are that funding is invested in Copeland priorities and projects through this route.

WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?

(e.g. Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council, etc.)

This report has come to update the Executive regarding the Cumbria Growth Deal negotiated by the LEP for 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To note the Cumbria Growth Deal 2014 that the Local Enterprise Partnership has negotiated with Government.
2. To note the process ongoing regarding the EU Investment Strategy for Cumbria and future Growth Deals.

1. INTRODUCTION

In March 2014, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) submitted their Socio Economic Plan – the Four Pronged Attack to Government to highlight how Cumbria wished to prioritise investment and available funding to stimulate local growth in the first round of the Growth Deal.

Last week the Government announced the agreed Growth Deal for Cumbria focusing on existing strengths of the county across manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and logistics, and to support further growth through improving key infrastructure and bringing sites forward for housing and commercial development.

A quick overview of the announcement indicates:

- Confirmation of £19m new capital investment for Cumbria in 2015/16 and 2016/17;

- An additional £3.3m to be channelled through other funding streams, taking total 'new' Growth Deal investment into Cumbria to £22.3m;
- Nearly 2,000 new jobs to be created by eight major infrastructure projects which have now been given the green light.

The eight major infrastructure projects are:

- An **Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre** at Furness College to equip Cumbrians with the skills to take up the expanding opportunities at BAE and within the supply chain for major manufacturers.
- A package of sustainable transport measures to **optimise connectivity within Cumbria**, particularly around key visitor arrival points and visitor attractions around Windermere and Grasmere.
- The remediation and improvement of the **Barrow Waterfront** site, enabling growth in this key centre of manufacturing.
- **Transport improvements in and around Kendal** facilitating housing development and business growth.
- Junction improvements to increase capacity in **South Ulverston** to support the expansion of GlaxoSmithKline and housing development.
- Supporting the creation of the **Nuclear Technology Innovation Gateway**, an innovation and support centre for the nuclear industry bringing together the National Nuclear Laboratory, research activities from the University of Manchester and other facilities.
- Access improvements to the **Durranhill Industrial Estate** to enable business expansion and the revitalising of this enterprise asset.

2. PROPOSALS

- a. The Executive is asked to note the attached Growth Deal paper from BIS and the accompanying press release from the LEP, in particular the section in both relating to Nuclear and Energy Excellence, where the Government has committed to invest £1.5m in the Nuclear Technology Innovation Gateway (£1.0m in 2015/16). BIS has also noted the key role of the North of England in the nuclear sector and welcomed the proposal to establish a multi-LEP network to co-ordinate the development of the nuclear sector in the North of England.
- b. The Executive is asked to note the detail relating to the Nuclear Technology Innovation Gateway, which has been put forward as the centrepiece of the Cumbria Centre of Nuclear Excellence programme. It creates a new £26.5m

facility in Copeland to showcase UK excellence in fuels, computing, reprocessing and remote engineering. The facility will incorporate research and development activities as well as a visitor and educational facility to demonstrate Cumbria's place at the leading edge of nuclear technology. The bid to the Local Growth Fund has been fully met, with £1.5m to be provided over the two-year period, and remainder funding to come from University of Manchester, the National Nuclear Laboratory and European funding. The University Manchester will now proceed with the design work for the facility, with the aim of submitting a planning application in early 2015 to enable start of construction in the summer of 2015. The development should be complete by the summer of 2017, with 60 new jobs created by 2020.

- c. The Council will continue to work with partners on the project pipeline that will inform both the ESIF programme and response to call for tenders later in the year, as well as subsequent Growth Deal funding through the LEP.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- a. Not applicable.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- a. This process has provided match funding into one of Copeland key priorities and highlighted the need to use nuclear as a focus for the wider regeneration of West Cumbria, as part of a North of England approach.

5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No comments other than to note the involvement of Councillors in the LEP processes and in the potential development opportunities

The Section 151 Officer's comments are: The proposed funding will benefit the borough and its residents. Work to support the LEP will need to be contained within current budgets.

EIA comments: The Council considers the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector equality duty and impact of the Cumbria Growth Deal negotiated by the Local Enterprise Partnership for 2014 and the impact on the protected characteristics to ensure that we take advantage of any opportunities to advance equalities.

Policy Framework comments: In line with the Council's key priorities it will work to be an effective public service partner so we can get the best deal for Copeland, as well as working to help build capacity within communities to respond to the

changes, find solutions and seek opportunities to help deliver local services for those who are or may be affected by Cumbria Growth Deal.

Other consultee comments, if any: None

6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?

- a. The Council will continue to engage with the LEP and its sub-groups through its Members and Senior Officers sitting on those Committees/ Groups.

7. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?

- a. Not applicable.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – The Cumbria Growth Deal: Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

Appendix B – Cumbria LEP Press release: Cumbria welcomes ‘Clean Sweep’ of Investment Bids